ചെയ്തു കിടന്നിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അതു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ഏതു കൂട്ടയിലാണ് കിടക്കുന്നതെന്നറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മേലധ്യക്ഷൻ പറഞ്ഞു; ആവശ്യം വരുമ്പോൾ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ഈ വിലപിടിച്ച ഖനികളിൽനിന്നു ആവശ്യമുള്ള തത്വരത്നങ്ങളെടുത്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു്. അങ്ങിനെ ഭംഗിയായ ഒരാർഡ്വം അദ്ദേഹം പാസ്സാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതെങ്ങിനെയെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ ഒരു പണ്ഡിതൻ ഒരു പുസ്തകമെഴുതിയാൽ മറെറാരു പണ്ഡിതൻ തന്റെ ബുദ്ധി ചെലുത്തുന്നതു് അതിന്റെ വ്യാഖ്യാനമെഴുതുന്നതിലാണു്. പിന്നൊരു പണ്ഡിതൻ അതിന്റെ പീഠികയെഴുതുന്നതിലാണു് തന്റെ സാമർത്ഥ്യമുപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ തരത്തിലാണു് നമ്മുടെ മഹാപണ്ഡിതന്മാരുടെ ബുദ്ധിശക്തി വെറുതെ വ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

പിന്നെ ഫർ ഡ്രസ് ഡിബേറ്റ്സ്—തികച്ചും വസ്ത്രം ധരിച്ച വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദം—ഇവിടെ നടക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ ഡിബേറ്റ്സിന്റെ ഫലമായും എസ്സ്. കെ. കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ഫലമായും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസകാര്യത്തിൽതന്നെയല്ല രാഷ്ട്രീയാന്തരീക്ഷത്തിൽതന്നെ അടുത്തകാലം വരെ പൊടിയും ചളിയും കഴപ്പുങ്ങളുമുണ്ടാക്കിയ ആ റിപ്പോർട്ടും അതിനു മുമ്പുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടും ഇങ്ങിനി വരാതവണ്ണമെങ്ങോ പോയി യോഗനിദ്രയിൽ ലയിച്ചുമാതിരി ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ അലമാരിയിൽ കിടക്കുകയാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നതു് അല്ലയോ സ്നേഹിതാ! ചിവരം ധാരാളമുണ്ടു്. അറിവില്ലെന്നു എന്നേയും എന്റെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനേയും പാറി പറയരുതേ! ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപദ്ധതി ചീത്തയോ കൊള്ളരുതാത്തതോ ആണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ കുറിച്ചു അറിവില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ല അതിൽ വിവേകമില്ലെന്നാണു് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെ സാരം. അപ്പോൾ എന്റെ വിവരക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടു് അവർക്കു വിവരമില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചുപോയി. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും അവർ കുറെ വിവേകത്തോടുകൂടി പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നു് ഞാൻ അവരോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും മറെറാരവസരത്തിൽ എന്റെ ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചും ഈ പ്രമേയം സഭയുടെ അനുമതിയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ പിൻവലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

14. Prohibition of Free Importation of Uncouponed Burma Rubber into India.

PROHIBITION OF FREE IMPORTATION OF UNCOUPONED BURMA RUBBER INTO INDIA.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): I beg to move the resolution which runs thus:

"*This Council recommends to the Government to make every endeavour to prohibit the free importation of uncouponed Burma Rubber into India.*"

At the outset, I may preface my remarks by reading from a speech of the President of the United Planters Association of South India Position. In his Presidential speech, emphasising the present position of the planters, these are the words he used. "It must be remembered that the continued low price of rubber, coffee and other products, make it almost impossible for owners

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of estates growing these crops to make both ends meet; Let alone improved conditions."

From those very weighty words, this Hon'ble House can understand that the planting industry is in the doldrums. This Hon'ble House will also kindly consider that in several estates, capitalisation per acre of planted rubber has gone up above Rs. 500 in very many cases and for the amount of money spent on an acre, viz., Rs. 500 the net yield will not be more than Rs. 30 or Rs. 40. Having established that proposition, I will go into the next aspect of the question. Rubber industry requires an artificial prop to foist it up to keep it in a standing position; I mean restriction of which this Hon'ble House is aware. That restriction scheme has been adopted by this Government also in the Rubber Control Act. That is to say, there is a control of production for purposes of export. It is only because the producers are told 'you should not produce and export all that you can possibly produce', that the industry is standing on its own legs to some extent. From these facts, therefore, this Hon'be House can easily understand that the rubber industry requires much help and consideration not only from this Hon'ble House, but from this Government as well as the India Government. As a result of that restriction scheme, one acre of rubber is allowed to produce only 230 lbs. as a basic quota. What is meant by basic quota? It means that the rubber restriction committee has artificially fixed that one acre of rubber is capable of yielding only 230 lbs. per annum. Without going into previous years, I may say that the Indian Rubber Licensing Committee, according to the report of the International Licensing Committee, fixed 50 per cent as the exportable quota for last year. That is to say only 115 lbs. out of this 230 lbs. alone could possibly be exported outside India.

Unfortunately the biggest consumers are outside India, the chief consumer being America. So that even if a planter can produce 300 lbs. per acre of rubber he is allowed, according to the restriction scheme, to export only 115 lbs. of rubber per acre. That was the position last year. From that, the next fact that has to be mentioned in this connection is that an acre of rubber even in Cochin is capable of yielding 300 lbs. of rubber and more per annum. Therefore, even if you can produce 300 & odd lbs. per acre, your basic quota having been fixed as 230 lbs., you can export only 115 lbs. of rubber. Then, the next question is if it is only 115 lbs. of rubber that you can possibly export from one acre of rubber, how many days would you require for producing so much rubber. According to me, it should be only 100 days' work to produce 115 lbs. of rubber. As a result now, several estate owners are asking their tappers to tap the trees

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only once in two days and in some cases, once in three days, because it is not necessary to produce more, the reason being the margin after the exportable quota cannot be sold in India for economically profitable prices. The only consumer of this excess rubber, I may say, is India itself. There are a few companies and factories started in India; for example, the Dunlop Rubber Company, which has a factory very near Calcutta. Then there is the Bata Shoe Industry, which has also a factory in Calcutta. There are also some minor trades which do consume small quantities of rubber. We are now therefore to sell 185 lbs. of rubber which may be left after the exportable quota. Formerly, when Burma was not exporting a big quantity of rubber into India, we were getting good prices for the internal sales of rubber which we cannot export outside. When we cannot send our rubber outside India, we Indians ask our own people to purchase some of it for their use. Then comes a competitor from Burma. I am not venturing into fields unknown and I do not say whether Burma will be able to compete with us. Let us stand on sure foundation. One thing is certain. Burma imported into India in the year 1935, 275 tons of rubber, in 1936, 286 tons, in 1937, 3,157 tons and in the year 1938, so far as figures go from January to September, about 2,000 tons of rubber. Now, this importation is cutting the throat of the Indian planter. They are able for some reason or other to compete with us on more favourable terms just as Ceylon is able to import copra into India on favourable terms. The reason may be enquired into. I introduced the subject of Ceylon copra to illustrate the hardship caused by the dumping of Burma rubber. Now Burma is politically separated from India and this Hon'ble House will be pleased to remember that I put a question in this House in the Budget session of the Council and the Government evinced a lot of sympathy on the question. Therefore, so far as the Government is concerned, there is sympathy. Wherein does the difficulty lie? It lies in the laxity of the India Government and the India Government is not probably free from the influence of the consumers in Northern India or in certain places nearer Delhi who can exert influence much more than we in the poor province of Kerala can, and because we have not sufficient influence and because Travancore and Cochin are vassals of the paramount power our voices are not listened to. Whatever it be, the competition now comes from Burma and we are hard struck by that competition. We are powerless in the matter. I wish very much that the Diwan President were himself present here to listen to this question. Because I am told by Mr. Walmseley that the sending up of a committee or a deputation to Simla and a ten minutes' interview with the under-under-under Secretary, will reach no authority in any way, and

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will not do any good. There are certain courses open to our Government. One is for the Diwan to use his personal influence which I think is much, because the Diwan may be able to bargain on some other question also. And, secondly, for a co-ordinated effort, which co-ordination must come from the Madras Government, Travancore Government and Cochin Government, by which joint representations, could be made to the India Government which representation, I conceive, will be more valuable than a simple, individual representation made to the India Government. And thirdly, this Government must exhaust all diplomatic resources open to the Government to influence the India Government to interfere in this very very important matter. And, lastly, I would suggest that if necessary our Government should threaten tor epeal the Rubber Restriction Act and bring force upon the India Government (*Laughter*). I think I have made sufficienty clear to this House the position. What happens is this. Any country, except Burma, can import rubber into India only on the license scheme. They can import only 115 lbs. per acre. But in the case of Burma, they can import any quantity into India. That is the position as it stands.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Ernakulam*): There is no rubber restriction scheme for Burma?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): There is; but they can export any quantity of rubber into India. Burma is given the facility to import their rubber into any part of India without restriction.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Even after the political separation?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Yes. There is the sympathy of our Government. But that sympathy must be translated into action. We are already handicapped as it is. We are having only about 11,000 acres of rubber while in Travancore it goes far above one lakh of acres of rubber. Even at the present moment, it is better than paddy cultivation. If we have an extent of more than 20 thousand or thirty thousand of acres, it would employ more labourers who come from our peasant class.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Have you not been given some concession with regard to the expansion of the area of cultivation?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): The International Committee has now given us 5 per cent, that is to say, if you can plant 100 trees in one acre, it is only five trees more that you can plant, and that is available only to the planters who have already

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planted. The Cochin planter is therefore in a very unfavourable position. He cannot plant more. He does not get enough return. I will conclude with the view of the Travancore Chamber of Commerce, which I submit, supports me entirely. This is culled from the Madras Mail of 28th November 1938. "Import of Burma Rubber—Main problem of Travancore rubber planters"—"The Chamber is of the view that the main difficulty for the producer of rubber in Travancore arises from the free import of Burma rubber into India which is still permitted, although Burma is politically a separate country. If Burma is placed on the same footing with regard to India, as any other rubber-producing country, India will be in a position to develop her own internal market, which will solve the problem." I therefore commend the resolution for the unanimous acceptance of this House.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): I second the resolution moved by the hon'ble member.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I think it is better to continue this debate to-morrow. It is a very important subject which ought to be well thrashed out and the matter should be represented to the Government to-morrow.

The House rose for the day at 4-55 p. m.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

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